

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10119

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, IR
SUB: GOI INTEREST IN JOINT MILITARY PLANNING TALKS WITH US

1. POLMILCOUNS MET OCT 5 WITH GEN REZVANI, J-5 SCS, WHO WISHED TO OUTLINE PROPOSAL FOR US-GOI ANNUAL JOINT MILITARY PLANNING TALKS. REZVANI RECENTLY DISCUSSED THIS IDEA WITH SHAH, WHO GAVE HIS ENDORSEMENT SEPT 23 FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUCH TALKS.

2. GOI PROPOSAL IS FOR ANNUAL TALKS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN US AND IRAN. SMALL TEAM OF EIGHT OR TEN PER SIDE WOULD BE HEADED BY CHIEF PLANNERS OF SCS AND JCS, WITH APPROPRIATE SUPPORT ON TRI-SERVICE BASIS DEPENDING ON AGENDA. AGENDA SHOULD BE MUTUALLY AGREED AND DEVELOPED FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO PERMIT ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR MOST FRUITFUL EXCHANGES. EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE USEFUL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH US MENTIONED BY REZVANI WERE INDIAN OCEAN AND PERSIAN GULF SECURITY.

3. IRAN HAS BEEN HOLDING JOINT MILITARY PLANNING TALKS WITH BRITISH FOR PAST FIVE YEARS, AND AUSTRALIA RECENTLY INDICATED INTEREST IN STARTING SUCH TALKS WITH IRAN. SHAH HAS INSTRUCTED THAT THIS BE ARRANGED.

4. FRANKLY, REZVANI SAID, IRAN RECOGNIZES THAT FROM EVERY STANDPOINT JOINT MILITARY PLANNING TALKS MORE USEFUL WITH US THAN WITH ANYONE
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ELSE. ABOVE AND BEYOND BENEFITTING FROM TALKS WITH US FROM STAND-

POINT OF STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL ASPECTS OF ANY QUESTION DISCUSSED, IRAN WOULD EXPECT ALSO TO GAIN IN SPECIFIC AREAS, SUCH AS AIR DEFENSE, TRAINING, AND LOGISTICS, BECAUSE OF US LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF MODERN MILITARY TECHNIQUES. REZVANI MADE CLEAR GOI DOES NOT VIEW PROPOSAL AS IN ANY WAY IMPINGING UPON OR CUTTING ACROSS MAAG (OR OTHER ELEMENTS OF USMISSION) RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS. GOI JOINT TALKS PROPOSAL, AS MADE CLEAR BY EXAMPLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION (PARA 2, ABOVE), RELATES TO AREAS AND QUESTIONS OUTSIDE OF IRAN.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH REZVANI DID NOT MAKE POINT, IT ALSO CLEAR THAT GOI PROPOSAL IN NO WAY INTENDED AS SUBSTITUTE FOR US-GOI HIGH POLICY DISCUSSIONS, WHICH MAY COVER SAME OR COMPARABLE QUESTIONS, BETWEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR AND SHAH, OTHER HIGH LEVELS, OR OTHER RECOGNIZED CHANNELS. GIVEN THIS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF PARTICIPANTS AND SUBJECTS, WE BELIEVE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT MAY BE OF MUTUAL VALUE AND RECOMMEND FAVORABLE RESPONSE. END COMMENT.
HELMS

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